



1130 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20036
202.331.8500
202.331.1598 fax

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To: County of San Luis Obispo
From: Mike Miller
Re: Federal Agenda Update

The Ferguson Group (TFG) continues to assist San Luis Obispo County in federal legislative and regulatory matters of direct interest to the County. TFG provides the County with weekly updates on legislation, regulatory action, and grant opportunities. TFG is in regular communication with the County's congressional delegation regarding the County's federal agenda. The following outlines specific areas of focus and action this winter and early spring.

Drought legislation. TFG commented on proposed legislation and arranged meetings with key congressional offices to advocate for drought relief and long term water supply stability.

- Sen Feinstein is likely to reintroduce her drought relief bill soon. House of Representatives legislation is similarly pending reintroduction. The County briefed key staff members on current and projected drought conditions and County priorities. TFG submitted draft appropriations language for the funding bill currently under consideration in the Senate.

Drought – agencies. TFG continued communications with Corps and Bureau of Reclamation officials in Washington, D.C. and California regarding drought assistance.

- Salinas Dam. The County met with key Corps officials in D.C. and San Francisco to develop a roadmap to funding seismic retrofits, funding increased water supply, and transferring ownership as well as securing a current operating agreement. These discussions are ongoing.
- Water Basin study. The County met with the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation and key congressional officials to support the County's Water Basin study grant request.

Los Osos. The County met with key officials regarding costs decreases and technical assistance.

- On lot costs. The County met USDA housing officials and other key officials to advocate for grants and loans to defray and decrease on lot costs for homeowners.

- **Water reuse.** The County met with USEPA officials to explore funding and technical assistance for on lot water reuse, including funding for home improvements related to rain harvesting and storage.

Transportation. TFG briefed congressional staff on County priorities as authorizing legislation moves forward in 2015.

Rail Safety. TFG kept the County informed regarding congressional hearings, legislation, and regulatory action related to rail movement of hazardous cargo, including petroleum products.

Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT). TFG and the County briefed the congressional delegation regarding the status and impact of proposed limits or elimination of PILT payments to the County. In 2014 the County received over \$1.1 million by way of Interior's PILT program.

Secure Rural Schools. TFG contacted USDA's SRS program director regarding the status of the program and briefed the congressional delegation. On March 26 the House reauthorized the SRS program which had expired; Senate action is pending. The County receives approximately \$19,000 annually under the program to benefit public schools and roads.

Nuclear Waste Storage & Transportation. TFG kept the County informed regarding congressional efforts to restart the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste storage project.

Agenda Fields & Priorities. The County's approved 2014-2015 federal agenda follows.

Field	Projects/Issues	Grants – NOFAs
Water Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drought & Water Reliability • Los Osos • Clean water • Salinas Dam • HCPs • South County Sanitation District – Water Recycling • Flood Control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Protection (FWS) • Rural Community Development (USDA) • Domestic well assistance.
Transportation & Public Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reauthorization Bill • Highway Trust Fund insolvency • Cayucos Pier 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reauthorization bill action pending • Highway Trust Fund action imminent
Public Safety, Social Services & County Revenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yucca Mountain & Nuclear Waste Policy • PILT Protection • Homelessness • Veterans Assistance • Fire Hydrant Bill (CWA) • Hazardous Materials and Rail Transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance to Firefighters (FEMA) • Museum (IMLS) • Job Training (EDA) • Arrest Policy & Protection Order Enforcement (DOJ) • 2nd Chance Reentry (DOJ) • Probation & Parole (DOJ) • Environmental Workforce (EPA) • Rural veterans transportation • Housing Preservation Grants

Additional Projects & Issues Watch List. The table below outlines additional projects and issues TFG continues to track for the County. Items in *italics* are either new issues/projects or the subject of recent advocacy efforts.

Field	Project/Issue
Water & Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lopez Lake HCP • NPDES – MSR4s Phase II • Stormwater conveyance & liability • Invasive species (aquatic) • Arroyo Grande Creek – levees, HCP, and Waterway Management Plan (Corps) • Property Assessed Clean Energy Program (PACE) • Climate Change • Water recycling • Fracking • Waters of the US rulemaking • <i>On lot connection assistance (USDA)</i> • <i>On lot water reuse (EPA)</i> • <i>Water Basin Study (Rec)</i>
Transportation & Public Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy efficiency for public facilities
Public Safety, Social Services & County Revenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-Gang Funding • DNA Cold Hit funding • Cambria Library Expansion • Homeless services and facilities funding • Medicare reimbursement • Disaster preparedness & insurance • <i>Secure Rural Schools</i> • <i>Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)</i>